

Paul Bartsch

(1871-1960)

Word has just been received of the passing in Lorton, Virginia, of Dr. Paul Bartsch, former Curator of Mollusks at the United States National Museum, at the age of 89. Dr. Bartsch's contributions to malacology have been extensive, covering more than a half-century. His close collaboration with Dr. William Healey Dall, his predecessor at the National Museum, has made the scientific signature of "Dall & Bartsch" an immortal combination in the literature on mollusks, occupying a significant section of a twentieth century conchological library.

Paul Bartsch was an all-around conchologist and malacologist who, on his own account, made large and important contributions to the general knowledge of mollusks, especially their classification, distribution, and taxonomy. Other journals will no doubt do full justice to his years of research work and accomplishments. Suffice it to say here, however, that west coast conchologists and malacologists will long be indebted to him for his painstaking work on a number of difficult genera of minute west American marine shells. His monographs on the Vitrinellidae (1907), *Macromphalina* (1907), *Triphoris* (1907), *Alaba* (1910), *Alabina* (1911), *Eumeta* (1911), *Diastoma* (1911), *Cerithiopsis* (1911), *Bittium* (1911), *Aclis* (1911), *Amphithalamus* (1911), *Nodulus* (1911), *Alvania* (1911), *Cingula* (1912), *Pyramidellidae* (1912), *Rissoina* (1915), *Melanella* (= *Balcis*) (1917), and *Barleeia* (1920) still stand as prime references for identification.

Dr. Bartsch was one of the organizers, a past president (1933), and an honorary life president of the American Malacological Union.

-- A. G. Smith

Books, Periodicals, Pamphlets

The Great Barrier Reef and Adjacent Isles by Keith Gillett, photography and related text, and Frank McNeill, Curator at the Australian Museum, Sydney, general

text. Coral Press, Paddington, Sydney, Australia, 1959.

This is a beautifully bound book illustrated with 27 color plates, 134 black-and-white photographic illustrations, 4 charts, and 3 figures.

Pages 62 to 94, incl., deal exclusively with mollusks. The illustrations are superb, and the text descriptions of the mollusks are well done. It is to be regretted that some other Australian authors did not employ the remarkable photographic skill of Mr. Gillett.

Every shell may be immediately recognized in this work. There is no doubt but that others as well as this writer will be pleased to see some fine figures showing all characters of species heretofore assigned with doubt due to poor illustrations.

The only criticism may be that in the opinion of some of us, the Australian authors are disposed to overclassify. The generic names used for the species of *Conidae*, *Cypraeidae*, etc., are those many of us think would serve as well as subgenera or sections.

-- John Q. Burch

Universal Shells by Maxwell Smith. World-Wide Sea Shells was published in 1940. The author states that there has been an insistent demand for a more comprehensive work containing not only illustrations but also detailed descriptions of the various families of mollusks and their principal genera.

The new book will contain nearly 300 pages and about 2000 separate illustrations. The Cephalopods, Gastropods, Pteropods, and the Amphineura are included in the first volume. This is now in press and should be ready early in 1960. The second part will appear in 1961, or earlier. The latter will contain the Pelecypoda together with land and fresh-water shells.

Universal shells will contain some color plates but chiefly line drawings which are most satisfactory for identification purposes. There will also be an essay by Dr. Joshua L. Bailey, introductory matter, maps and figures from obscure and out-of-print publications. The first volume is priced at \$7.50

-- John Q. Burch